

MINUTES – National Catholic Safeguarding Commission – Part 1

Friday 02 October 2020 – 10.00 - 12.00 – 13.00 – 15.00

Video conference, with order of the agenda according to the availability of guests.

Present: Mr Peter Charlesworth (PC) (Safeguarding Coordinators Rep)
+ Mark Davies (MD)
Fr Nicholas Edmonds-Smith (NES)
Sr Eileen Glancy (EG)
Fr Brendan Killeen (BK) (afternoon only)
Mrs Elizabeth Manero (EM)
Mr Dave Marshall (DM) – Survivor Advisory Panel (10.00 – 11.00)
+ Paul Mason (PM)
Mr Patrick McDermott (PMD) (Commission Chair Rep, Leeds)
Ms Rachel O’Driscoll (ROD) Vice-Chair
Mr Chris Pearson (CP) – Chair
Mr James Reilly (Commission Chair Rep Jesuits)
+ Marcus Stock (MS) Vice-Chair
Ms Dani Wardman (DW) Conference of Religious, Vice-Chair

In attendance: Mrs Anna Gebski (AG) – NCSC Secretary (Minutes)
Dr Colette Limbrick (CL) – CSAS Director

Apologies: Ms Kathy Perrin (KP) – Catholic Insurance Service, Ms Christine Edgar (CE) – CSAS Safeguarding Manager

- 1. Apologies for absence**
Apologies as above received prior to the meeting. This meeting was in addition to the scheduled meetings of the NCSC. DM left after 1 hour to chair the scheduled SAP meeting. BK attended in the afternoon only, due to prior engagements.
- 2. Introduction and welcome**
The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome and thanking everyone for reviewing the report at short notice.
- 3. Opening Prayer**
MS led the opening prayer.
- 4. Members declaration of interest and statement of confidentiality**
There were no declarations made, but should they arise they would be noted. Confidentiality was agreed.

5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 08 September 2020**

The minutes were accepted by the Commission, with minor typographical amendments.

6. **Actions Updates**

This meeting was held specifically to review the Report into the Independent Review of Safeguarding Structures and Arrangements in the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Actions were not updated at this meeting.

7. **Independent Review Report**

CP explained that he would like to go through the findings of the review report point by point and invite every member to share their opinion. The outcomes of this meeting would be forwarded to the Bishops' Conference together with the report. Any other issues that needed to be addressed in relation to the Hollins SAP Review would be addressed at the December meeting.

Members of the NCSC expressed a feeling that there has been a lost opportunity for greater consultation with SAP, which should not be repeated in the implementation stage. It was agreed that a major change was needed in how victims and survivors contribute to safeguarding policies and procedures. Victims and survivors should be asked how they want to contribute to the next phase.

CL confirmed that although she was not a member of the Review Panel, she had worked closely with them and confirmed that the Panel had a wider context of engagement with victims and survivors (together with their engagement with SAP).

The NCSC and SAP were scheduled for a joint development meeting today, but this had been postponed due to the delivery of the Review Report. DM will inform CP of the SAP meeting reaction to the report.

CP expressed general disappointment that the report did not acknowledge the enormity of the work done over the years by successive NCSC committees, SAP and CSAS.

Members went through the report by workstream and proposal offering comments and recommendations to be pursued in the implementation stage.

Note:

Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA)

Institute of Consecrated Life and Society of Apostolic Life (ICLSAL)

Conclusions and recommendations:

The NCSC accepts all the proposals and recommendations in the report and agrees that it underlines strongly the 'One Church' approach. All Members expressed sincere thanks to all the Panel and every workstream and committee that worked on the review, came up with and developed proposals in a very short timeframe and with pandemic restrictions. The overall recommendation from the NCSC is strong approval with further consideration in implementation stage to:

- Having strong engagement with victims and survivors and clarify their role in the future structure.

- Clarifying the funding for the National Tribunal Service – although this is separate to the implementation of other recommendations and may require independently more time to establish.
- Case consultation – how this will work as an optional resource and how will it be used?

There are no further time frames as yet. The NCSC recommendations now go to the Bishops' Plenary meeting being held on 16 November 2020. It was not intended that the Review Panel would put in the detail of the recommendations at this stage so substantial further work is needed. It is likely that the ICCSA report into the Catholic Church in England and Wales will come out at about the same time.

It is currently unclear who will take on the implementation of the recommendations in the Review Report. The NCSC or a special task force may be tasked with the next phase of this process.

CP thanked everyone for going through the report and for all the observations and comments. The report does not get amended but goes as it is to the Bishops.

The Chair and Vice-Chairs have a meeting on Thursday 08 October 2020 to discuss the Comms strategy, part of which has already begun to be prepared.

8. Any other Business

- a) The Protocol for Media was circulated prior to the meeting and is available in the meeting papers.
- b) The Let's Be Honest report was circulated and brings a valuable theological perspective to safeguarding.

MD finished the meeting with a prayer.

Dates and venues of future meetings:

During Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, the work of the NCSC continues through electronic and virtual meetings.

Post meeting note: The proposed joint development session with the SAP has been postponed until December, as the meeting agenda for 02 October 2020 needs to focus on the full implications of the Independent Review Report.

Tuesday **01 December 2020** - Location tba

Wednesday **02 December 2020** – location tba